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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 11 line 18 recites "...is interrupted and/or enabled" wherein applicant's disclosure does not support both 'interrupted' And 'enabled'. Appropriate clarification and/or correction is required. or just one of the limitations. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11-19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hein-Magnussen et al., WO 02/19666 A3.

Regarding claim 11, Hein-Magnussen teaches a conference installation comprising: a network and a plurality of network units connected by the network(Fig.2a-2b); at least one delegate speech station which has an audio unit for changing audio signals into first

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signals(Fig.1-2 and page 15 lines 27-29);

a signal processing unit for converting first signals into second signals(page 15 lines 31-33);

an interface for sending the second signals to an external network unit and for receiving third signals from an external network unit(page 16 line 19-page 17 line 28);

said signal processing unit being suitable for converting the third signals received from the external network unit into first signals(page 15 line 33 – page 16 line 3);

said audio unit being adapted to convert first signals into audio signals and to reproduce audio signals(page 15 lines 25-30);

said second and third signals being based on a first communication protocol(page 16 lines 19-32 and page 17 lines 22-28);

said communication of the external network units with each other being based on a second communication protocol which represents a network communication protocol(page 19 lines 16-25, page 21 lines 28-31, and page 22 lines 17-31); and

a chairman speech station for controlling the communication of the at least one delegate speech station with the network, wherein a communication of the delegate speech station is interrupted and/or enabled(105 Fig.1 or 202/230 Fig.2, and page 17 lines 31-34; chairman speech station(CPU) controlling communication of audio means).

Regarding claim 12, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11 and further comprising operating elements for controlling the delegate speech station(105 Fig.1 or 202/230 Fig.2, and page 17 lines 31-34; chairman speech station(CPU) controlling communication of audio means).

Regarding claim 13, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to

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claim 12 wherein the operating elements are connected to the signal processing unit and wherein the signals produced by the operating elements are converted by the signal processing unit into fourth signals and are forwarded to the interface(105 Fig.1 and Fig.2, and page 16 line 19-page 17 line 28; multiple signals does not have to be different from each other, e.g. 4th signals can be 2nd or 3rd signals).

Regarding claim 14, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11, wherein the signal processing unit represents a digital signal processing unit and the interface represents a digital interface(Fig.1-2).

Regarding claim 15, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11, wherein the audio unit has a swan-neck microphone(Fig.1; microphone is swan-neck like).

Regarding claim 16, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11, comprising a conference installation control unit for controlling the delegate speech stations connected to a conference installation(105 Fig.1 or 202/230 Fig.2).

Regarding claim 17, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11, wherein the network units each have respective specific network identifications(Fig.2, page 16 lines 19-32 and page 17 lines 22-28);.

Regarding claim 18, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11, further comprising a network server for controlling the network(Fig.2a-2b).

Regarding claim 19, Hein-Magnussen teaches the conference installation according to claim 11, wherein an operating system upon recognition of the individual delegate speech stations is transmitted to the delegate speech stations during a connection to the network(Fig.2a-

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2b, page 19 line 31-col.20 line 27).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSEPH T. PHAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6:30pm EST, off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph T Phan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614